

BOARD OF HEALTH
Bangs Community Center: Room 101
Minutes

March 13, 2014

BOH Members: David Ahlfeld; Diane Amsterdam, MD; Marco Boscardin; Nancy Gilbert;
Julie Marcus

Staff: Julie Federman; Pamela Field-Sadler

Board of Selectman: Diana Stein, Liaison

Other: See Attached List

Meeting opened at 7:08 p.m.

Chairman Ahlfeld welcomed all to the meeting and explained the Board of Health meeting scheduled for February 13, 2014 was canceled due to the winter storm.

I. Review & Receive

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2013 –**Approved**

Vote: Ahlfeld-Aye; Amsterdam-Aye; Boscardin-Aye; Gilbert-Aye;
Marcus-Abstain

II. New Business

A. Geothermal Well Application: East Pleasant Street

AHA/John Nutting Apartments

The Board of Health (BOH) reviewed an application for a Geothermal Well Construction Permit for the property on East Pleasant Street known as John Nutting Apartments. Ms. Federman will work with Edmund Smith and the applicant to confirm this construction project is a close-loop system, as well as determine if any drinking water wells exist within 100' of the proposed project.

Motion: Ms. Gilbert made the motion, seconded by Mr. Boscardin, to approve the application for a Geothermal Well Construction Permit for the property on East Pleasant Street known as John Nutting Apartments upon confirmation that the construction project is a close-loop system and that no drinking water wells exist within 100' of the project.

Vote: Unanimously Approved

B. Hampshire College Campus Portal Project

Guilford Mooring, DPW Director in attendance.

Mr. Mooring explained Hampshire College proposes to construct a campus building which meets the standards of the Living Building Challenge. The Living Building Challenge emphasizes a building which is net zero energy, water and waste. Mr. Mooring explained the Town's policy is to require new building projects to connect to Town water and sewer if available. Although Town water is available, Hampshire College would become a public water system collecting, using, treating and re-using water. As such, Hampshire

College will be required to meet the same rigorous standards as the Town for water testing, quality and reporting to the Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Mooring explained the Town will complete semi-annual back flow testing on the system. Ms. Federman explained this project is in the early planning phase and the project's leaders would like to attend a Board of Health (BOH) meeting, and although a decision is not expected here, the BOH will need to determine their position regarding the request to waive the requirement to connect to the Town water and sewer systems. The BOH determined they are willing to discuss this proposal with the project's leaders. The Hitchcock Center is also planning to construct a Living Building.

C. UMass Transfer Station: Proposed Modification to Authorization To Operate

UMass is considering transporting the solid waste generated by Amherst College. Currently, Amherst College waste is hauled to Chicopee. The combined solid waste of UMass and Amherst College is not expected to exceed the 15 ton per day limit. The current permit proposes a transfer station used exclusively for UMass generated solid waste. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has determined a modification to the issued Authorization to Operate permit is required for UMass to accept solid waste from Amherst College. DEP requires evidence that the Board of Health supports this modification.

Motion: Mr. Boscardin made the motion, seconded by Ms. Marcus, to support the proposal to amend the UMass solid waste transfer station Authorization to Operate permit to accept additional solid waste from only Amherst College.

Vote: Unanimously Approved

III. Old Business

A. Water Fluoridation

Chairman Ahlfeld explained that around 1987 Amherst began to add fluoride to the local public water supply. None of the current Board of Health (BOH) members held BOH positions at the time the decision was made to implement the community water fluoridation program. The current BOH began educating themselves and discussing this topic after a resident shared a concern for this practice. The BOH listened to comments and concerns brought forward by the audience including:

- Concern for possible adverse effects of fluoride exposure on children's neurodevelopment and human health.
- Money budgeted/spent on fluoride could be used for other programs.
- Does government have the authority to medicate without consent?
- Topical application versus Systemic
- What type of fluoride does the Town add to the water supply and how much is spent?
- There is an epidemic of Springfield children with decayed teeth; Springfield's public water supply is not fluoridated. Holyoke's water is fluoridated. A comparison to the two city's dental data could be useful.

- Northampton does not fluoridate the public water supply. A comparison of Northampton and Amherst dental data could be useful.
- A local dentist has seen significant decrease of dental caries over 35 years of practicing in Amherst.
- Socio-economic barriers prevent some people from receiving good dental care. The BOH needs to address what's best practice for the community.
- The BOH should investigate data/studies closely.

Audience participants were thanked for coming. Written comments regarding this item should be submitted to the Health Department by March 24, 2014. The BOH noted that many smaller local towns do not have public supply systems so fluoridation is not a possibility. The BOH noted that an aspect of the fluoridation question is consent and that consent is not a direct Public Health issue. The BOH will continue this discussion at a future meeting.

IV. Topics Not Anticipated By the Chair 48 Hours Prior To The Meeting

No items were brought forward for discussion.

V. Director's Report and Update

A. Next Meeting Date

The date for the shelter drill has been finalized and conflicts with the scheduled Board of Health (BOH) meeting for April. The BOH rescheduled their meeting for April 3, 2014. The BOH is invited to participate in the drill which will take place at the Mullins Center beginning at 3:00 p.m. on April 10, 2014. Ms. Federman will forward the registration link to the BOH members.

B. Cooking Food at Farmers' Markets

Ms. Federman explained the Health Department is moving forward creating policies regarding cooking at Farmers' Markets. A new application and brochure are currently in development. The Health Department is working closely with neighboring Health Departments to ensure regional consistency. The Board of Health expressed appreciation for the Health Department's practice of providing education in all their work to ensure safe and healthy standards are met.

C. Restaurant Employee Recognition

Ms. Federman was contacted by the owner of Rafter's and made aware of a heroic act of an employee at the restaurant. This employee administered the Heimlich Maneuver to aid a choking victim. The Board of Health agreed to honor this employee with a certificate. Ms. Federman will contact the restaurant owners to determine if a press release is appropriate.

D. Diana Stein, Select Board Liaison

The Board of Health (BOH) and Ms. Federman recognized the long standing service Ms. Stein has provided to the BOH as a member for 10 years and then most recently as a Select Board Liaison.

VI. Schedule Next Board of Health Meeting/Agenda Closing Date

The following Board of Health meetings are scheduled:

April 3, 2014

Pamela Field-Sadler, Management Assistant

Approved: April 3, 2014

Board of Health
March 13, 2014
Bangs Community Center: Room 101
Meeting Document List

The following documents were available to the Board of Health during their scheduled meeting. These documents are available for review at the:

Amherst Health Department, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA 01002

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes: January 9, 2014 (draft)
- Geothermal Well Application: East Pleasant Street
AHA/John Nutting Apartments
 - 1. Application Packet
 - 2. Correspondence from Edmund Smith, Health Inspector
- Hampshire College Campus Portal Project
- UMass Transfer Station
- Fluoride Discussion
 - 1. Radio Transcript from *Living On Earth* – Air Date: Week of February 21, 2014
 - 2. Talking points for fluoridation meeting submitted by Jonathan Evans
- Director's Report
 - 1. Shelter Drill Timetable
 - 2. Restaurant Employee Recognition Certificate



AMHERST HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 70 BOLTWOOD WALK, AMHERST, MA 01002
(413) 259-3077 (413) 259-2404 - FAX Environmental Health Division (413) 259-3078

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Sign In Sheet

March 13, 2014

Room 101

Bangs Community Center

7:00 p.m.

NAME (Please Print Clearly) ADDRESS/AFFILIATION/TITLE

1. DP PIECH 1 TRILLIUM WAY / DMD
2. Gaillard Moring Amherst Dpw
3. Pete Everett 100 Oak St
4. Brian Kopinbo 772 Bay Rd
5. K Row 772 Bay Rd
6. D. M. H. T. W. J. 12 Pleasant St
7. Jonathan Evans 109 Leverett Rd.
8. June Dwyer 170 E. Hadley Rd.
9. Craig Goff 338 Middle St
10. Amy Vickers 441 West St
11. Karen Schuman 59 Heatherdale Rd
12. Rebecca Hull 76 Story Hill Rd
- Hope Chelms 1090 N. Pleasant St #562
- Dael Chapman 71 Pondview

John Tablason 350 Autumn Lane